

Shady Rest OSV-OHV Staging (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700553

A. Statement of Planning Objectives

The "Shady Rest" area is a compilation of developed and dispersed recreation sites that lays within the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) municipal boundary on national forest lands and is accessed by "Sawmill Cutoff Road", under easement and maintained by TOML.

In the summer, the TOML operates traditional park facilities, including ball diamonds, a small skateboard park, children's play

areas, a picnic area, as well as several miles of paved multiple use paths. Adjacent to these developed facilities are several miles of roads and OHV trails that access the Jeffrey Pine Forest and connect with a road network that spans from the San Joaquin Ridge to tunnels under Hwy 395 that lead to a myriad of roads in the Glass Mountains and Long Valley Caldera. The OHV trails in and around the Shady Rest area are favorites for local Mammoth Lakes residents and many visitors who stay in Shady Rest campgrounds and access this trail system. Currently, there are no developed staging facilities for OHV use. Users stage at several user-created pull-outs along the main forest road>

In the winter, the Shady Rest area serves as a staging area for OSV's, cross country skiers, snowshoers, and dog walkers accessing trails groomed and maintained by the Forest Service with State funded grants and Mammoth Nordic (a non-profit user group) with private donations. The OSV staging area is very heavily used and conflicts with other users have occurred in recent years.

Recent development of geothermal energy adjacent to the Shady Rest area requires the construction of new roads, the interruption of existing roads and routes, and winter access to well sites. Specific development plans are being developed, but it is evident that the new geothermal activity will create conflicts with OHV and OSV users in the Shady Rest area.

Two winter access routes have been plowed over the last three years in an effort to determine which access route best meets the needs of the geothermal operator. The preferred route presents some minor conflicts with winter recreation that can be mitigated with thoughtful planning and facility improvements.

OSV users and a user group (Mammoth Snowmobile Club) have petitioned the Forest Service to increase the size of turnarounds, establish a larger, angled parking area, improve restroom facilities, install snowmobile "racks" to lock sleds to for overnight staging, and improve signing and visitor information in the winter recreation area.

Mammoth Pacific, the geothermal energy company, is working with the Forest Service to engage the public in efforts to mitigate their impacts on recreation resources in the Shady Rest area. The funds being sought after in this grant application will compliment the resources provided by Mammoth Pacific and the Forest Service and help facilitate a more collaborative planning process in 2010 that will seek to mitigate the impacts of the geothermal development, while also addressing other outstanding issues related to OSV and OHV use in the area. All interested parties will be invited to gather through a series of meetings to discuss the issues and find solutions to improve and expand the recreation opportunities in the Shady Rest area.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

The Shady Rest OSV staging area has historically been one of the busiest OSV/Winter Recreation staging areas on the Inyo National Forest. Over the winter of 2009-10, the experiment to move the staging area up Sawmill Road to the TOML park has

decreased use due to the limited turning radius, limitations in plowing, and conflicts with non-motorized users. This experiment has revealed the need for more careful planning, improved facilities, and modifications to the staging area.

The nordic community is advocating for the development of a "winter park" at Shady Rest Park, which would increase non-motorized use in the area and increase the likelihood for conflicts. Furthermore, the development of geothermal energy in the area presents several challenges to the existing motorized and non-motorized recreation activities and complicates the planning of further recreation development. The OSV community wants to continue to use Shady Rest for staging and is asking for improvements to be made.

The Mammoth Snowmobile Club has communicated their desire for a collaborative planning process that will lead to a management plan and prescribe needed improvements to the facilities, as specified in the project description. Larger turn-around areas and more pull-through parking spots are the primary objectives, but other facility improvements will greatly enhance users ability to access and

enjoy the existing OSV trail system without having to drive many miles out of the Town of Mammoth Lakes to access more remote trailhead/staging area locations.

Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access, a local non-profit advocacy group, has petitioned the Forest Service to examine how all motorized and non-motorized summer and winter activities will be impacted by the geothermal energy development. This group also favors a collaborative, community stakeholder process to plan for the future of Shady Rest recreation.

The proposed planning process would bring motorized and non-motorized recreation enthusiasts together with geothermal energy developers and Forest Service planners in an effort to develop recreation solutions and expanded motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities in the Shady Rest area of Mammoth Lakes.

C. Statement of Activities

The Forest Service proposes to hold a series of meetings that are open to the public and attract a variety of motorized and non-motorized recreation enthusiasts who have historically used and are familiar with the Shady Rest area. These meetings would be professionally facilitated and would encourage interested parties to engage and participate in problem solving. The series of meetings would seek to:

1. Identify existing conditions, use patterns, problems, and concerns
2. Examine how proposed new uses will impact the existing conditions and use patterns
3. Explore new opportunities, ideas, and recreation opportunities in the Shady Rest Area
4. Develop solutions and a new recreation management strategy for Shady Rest motorized and non-motorized use
5. Develop consensus and seek broad support for a newly proposed management strategy

The Forest Service would then review the community developed recreation proposal, work with the public on needed adjustments, and then walk the management strategy through the formal NEPA planning process with the intent of seeking funding for primary implementation in 2012.

D. List of Reports

Consideration of management alternatives will require the development of existing condition maps and documents, already being prepared by the US Forest Service.

A "Shady Rest Management Vision" report would be created by public participants, with technical assistance from the US Forest Service and Town of Mammoth Lakes. Included in the "Vision" report would be detailed maps and drawings that represent changes in trail alignments, new trails, geothermal development, and any new trailhead/staging area infrastructure.

The Forest Service will produce the proper environmental review/NEPA documents to implement changes to recreation use, trails, and supporting infrastructure.

Additional Documentation

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1. Timeline for Completion

Attachments:

[Shady Rest Recreation Planning Timeline](#)

2. Optional Project-Specific Application Documents

3. Optional Project-specific Maps

Attachments:

[Shady Rest Planning Area](#)

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Inyo National Forest		
PROJECT TITLE :	Shady Rest OSV-OHV Staging (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-02-05-P02
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The "Shady Rest" area is a compilation of developed and dispersed recreation sites that lays within the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) municipal boundary on national forest lands and is accessed by "Sawmill Cutoff Road", under easement and maintained by TOML.</p> <p>In the summer, the TOML operates traditional park facilities, including ball diamonds, a small skateboard park, children's play areas, a picnic area, as well as several miles of paved multiple use paths. Adjacent to these developed facilities are several miles of roads and OHV trails that access the Jeffrey Pine Forest and connect with a road network that spans from the San Joaquin Ridge to tunnels under Hwy 395 that lead to a myriad of roads in the Glass Mountains and Long Valley Caldera. The OHV trails in and around the Shady Rest area are favorites for local Mammoth Lakes residents and many visitors who stay in Shady Rest campgrounds and access this trail system. Currently, there are no developed staging facilities for OHV use. Users stage at several user-created pull-outs along the main forest road></p> <p>In the winter, the Shady Rest area serves as a staging area for OSV's, cross country skiers, snowshoers, and dog walkers accessing trails groomed and maintained by the Forest Service with State funded grants and Mammoth Nordic (a non-profit user group) with private donations. The OSV staging area is very heavily used and conflicts with other users have occurred in recent years.</p> <p>Recent development of geothermal energy adjacent to the Shady Rest area requires the construction of new roads, the interruption of existing roads and routes, and winter access to well sites. Specific development plans are being developed, but it is evident that the new geothermal activity will create conflicts with OHV and OSV users in the Shady Rest area.</p> <p>Two winter access routes have been plowed over the last three years in an effort to determine which access route best meets the needs of the geothermal operator. The preferred route presents some minor conflicts with winter recreation that can be mitigated with thoughtful planning and facility improvements.</p> <p>OSV users and a user group (Mammoth Snowmobile Club) have petitioned the Forest Service to increase the size of turnarounds, establish a larger, angled parking area, improve restroom facilities, install snowmobile "racks" to lock sleds to for overnight staging, and improve signing and visitor information in the winter recreation area.</p> <p>Mammoth Pacific, the geothermal energy company, is working with the Forest Service to engage the public in efforts to mitigate their impacts on recreation resources in the Shady Rest area. The funds being sought after in this grant application will compliment the resources provided by Mammoth Pacific and the Forest Service and help facilitate a more collaborative planning process in 2010 that will seek to mitigate the impacts of the geothermal development, while also addressing other outstanding issues related to OSV and OHV use in the area. All interested parties will be invited to gather through a series of meetings to discuss the issues and find solutions to improve and expand the recreation opportunities in the Shady Rest area.</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Inyo National Forest
Application: Shady Rest OSV-OHV Staging (FINAL)

5/13/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Other-District Recreation Officer	20.000	323.000	DAY	3,230.00	3,230.00	6,460.00
	Other-OHV-OSV Rec Tech	10.000	245.000	DAY	1,225.00	1,225.00	2,450.00
	Other-Public Affairs Specialist	10.000	290.000	DAY	1,450.00	1,450.00	2,900.00
	Other-Hydrologist	4.000	250.000	DAY	500.00	500.00	1,000.00
	Other-Engineer	10.000	325.000	DAY	1,625.00	1,625.00	3,250.00
	Other-Landscape Architect	10.000	260.000	DAY	1,300.00	1,300.00	2,600.00
	Other-Botanist	2.000	275.000	DAY	0.00	550.00	550.00
	Other-Arcaeologist	20.000	275.000	DAY	2,750.00	2,750.00	5,500.00
	GIS Specialist	5.000	260.000	DAY	650.00	650.00	1,300.00
	Other-OHV-OSV Program Manager	5.000	310.000	DAY	775.00	775.00	1,550.00
	Total for Staff				13,505.00	14,055.00	27,560.00
2	Contracts						
	Other-Professional Facilitator	5.000	1500.000	DAY	7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00
	Other-Meeting Coordination and Outreach	1.000	5000.000	YR	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
	Total for Contracts				12,500.00	0.00	12,500.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-Maps, paper, ink, handouts, flipch	1.000	1000.000	MISC	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
5	Equipment Purchases						

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: USFS - Inyo National Forest
 Application: Shady Rest OSV-OHV Staging (FINAL)

5/13/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
Total Program Expenses					26,005.00	15,055.00	41,060.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					26,005.00	15,055.00	41,060.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					26,005.00	15,055.00	41,060.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: USFS - Inyo National Forest
 Application: Shady Rest OSV-OHV Staging (FINAL)

5/13/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	13,505.00	14,055.00	27,560.00	
2	Contracts	12,500.00	0.00	12,500.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Program Expenses		26,005.00	15,055.00	41,060.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		26,005.00	15,055.00	41,060.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		26,005.00	15,055.00	41,060.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[NEPA is underway - no document to date](#)

Planning Project Criteria

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is 3

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

☐ 76% or more (10 points)

☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)

☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)

☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Planning Project - Q 2.

A Planning Project - Page 1

2. The Planning Project would address the following 4

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on special-status species habitats

☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on cultural resources

☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on soil conditions

☐ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on water quality

☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on other recreation uses

☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on adjacent lands.

☒ Potential impact to relationships between OHV Recreation and local residents

☐ Toxic or hazardous materials within a Project Area or adjacent property that may impact OHV Recreation

☒ Trail issues such as traffic patterns, trails closures, appropriate uses, etc.

B. Planning Project - Page 2

Explain each statement that was checked

The Shady Rest project planning area is with the town limits of Mammoth Lakes and is a focal point for a multitude of motorized and non-motorized recreation activities. A municipal park and trail system intersect with OHV/OSV trails and roads. Mountain bike races take place on trails shared with atv's and motorcycles. OSV's share trails with nordic skiers, dog walkers, and snowshoers. This concentration of activities takes place in an area that is rich in cultural and wildlife resources. All resource areas, including soils and hydrology, will be carefully considered and assessed in the community collaborative planning exercise and the Forest Service NEPA planning process. The area is used heavily by locals and out of town visitors and both parties will be engaged through public meetings and information and input processes made available over the internet.

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☒ 6 or more items checked (4 points)

☐ 4 to 5 items checked (3 points)

☐ 2 to 3 items checked (2 points)

☐ 1 or no items checked (No points)

3. Motorized Access - Q 3.

3. The Project would lead to improved facilities that provide motorized access to the following nonmotorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

☒ Camping

☒ Birding

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) [mountain biking, nordic sports,] | |

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project proposal was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The Forest Service and the Town of Mammoth Lakes have had numerous meetings and conference calls to discuss the situation in the Shady Rest project planning area and the need for a community involved planning process. The Forest Service has met individually with Mammoth Nordic and the Mammoth Snowmobile Club to discuss the existing situation and the need for this project.

5. Stakeholder Input - Q 5.

5. If the Project were approved, the planning process would incorporate substantial stakeholder input: 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

If 'Yes', explain, specifically, how it would be 'substantial'. Identify stakeholders

The intent of this project is to bring all stakeholders together in a series of meetings that will allow issues to be discussed and debated with assistance from a professional facilitator. Participants will be asked to examine the current conditions and existing user patterns, identify problems, develop solutions, and reach agreement on a management plan that will accommodate motorized and non-motorized recreation use and improve the recreation opportunities in the project area. While the meetings will be open to the public, organizations that represent user groups will be directly invited to participate and engage. At a minimum, the process will include the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Pacific Geothermal, Mammoth Snowmobile Club, Mammoth Lakes Trail and Public Access, the Sierra Club, Mammoth Nordic, and local motor sports retail shop owners (these individuals have been representing motorcycle and ohv interests in the past year).

6. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 6.

6. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s)

Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Pacific Geothermal, Mammoth Snowmobile Club, Mammoth Nordic, Friends of the Inyo

7. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 7.

7. The Planning Project sustains OHV Opportunity in the following manner 12

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Project will develop management plans for existing OHV Opportunity (4 points)

- ☒ Project will complete environmental review for an OHV Development Project (3 points)
- ☒ Project supports development of OHV Opportunities adjacent to population centers (3 points)
- ☐ Project supports development of OHV Opportunities in areas that lack legal OHV Opportunity (2 points)
- ☒ Project will develop a system of designated OHV routes for an existing OHV Opportunity (2 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

While the Inyo National Forest Travel Management Plan decision identified a legal road and trail system in the Shady Rest project planning area, the proposed planning process will take a more detailed look at the Shady Rest area and develop a management plan for OHV/OSV access and staging. The process will also seek to identify how to minimize conflicts among user groups by moving and/or adding roads/routes/trails. The Forest Service will complete a NEPA planning process for the management plan and prescribed improvements.

The Shady Rest project planning area lays within the municipal boundary of the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Existing OHV and OSV opportunities are already designated and defined, but this project will go further to identify appropriate staging areas, loop trail opportunities, and connectors to the larger trail and road networks.

8. Identification of Funding Sources - Q 8.

8. Funds for implementing the completed plan have been identified 0

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☒ No (No points)

☐ Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Reference Document

9. Offsite Impacts - Q 9.

9. The Planning Project would address offsite impacts relative to the Project Area (e.g., sound, fugitive dust, runoff): 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☐ No (No points)

☒ Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Because of the close proximity to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, campgrounds, and the Shady Rest municipal park, sound and dust issues will be given careful consideration in the planning process.